



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

MAR 08 2013

Stephanie Brady, Project Team Leader
U.S. Fish Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Rd., MS-231
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Re: EPA comments on the USFWS Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange/Road
Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement, EPA Project #09-046-DOI.

Dear Ms. Brady:

We have reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange/Road Corridor project near King Cove, Alaska (CEQ #20130027) in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. In our May 18, 2012 comment letter on the draft EIS, we expressed concerns regarding the potential impacts to wilderness characteristics, a site on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, hydrology, and habitat. We also recommended that additional information be included in the Final EIS, including additional realty information to inform stakeholders of the values of the lands and resources proposed for exchange.

We appreciate the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's intensive efforts to involve the cooperating agencies and other stakeholders in the NEPA process. The Final EIS was responsive to many of our comments and provided additional information and analyses that we requested. We are pleased to note that the Service intends to continue work with the State of Alaska and local communities to support viable alternatives to ensure the continued health and safety of King Cove residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the Final EIS. Please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or curtis.jennifer@epa.gov with any questions you have regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine B. Reichgott".

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit